



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

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JULY 4 WEEKEND SAFETY REMINDERS: FIREWORKS, ALCOHOL NOT PERMITTED IN STATE PARKS, FORESTS, HARBORS

HILO — The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is reminding the public about safety precautions during the Saturday Fourth of July Celebrations on the Big Island.

“We encourage people to enjoy the parks and use them responsibly on this national holiday. To protect public safety and natural resources, we are reminding the public of the following rules that need to be observed over the Fourth of July weekend,” said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson.

The consumption of alcohol and the use of fireworks are prohibited within all state parks, forest reserves, unencumbered lands and small boat harbors.

Open fires and driving on the beach and unleashed dogs in these areas are also prohibited (HAR Ch. 13-221-3, 13-22-11).

Fireworks safety zones

In Hilo, the evening fireworks display will be set off from Coconut Island. All vessels, thrill craft and kayaks in Hilo Bay must stay 300 yards away from Moku Ola (Coconut Island) on Saturday, July 4, 2009, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

In Kona, vessels must also keep away 200 yards from the fireworks display barge in Kailua Bay on Saturday from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The public is reminded that all boats, personal water craft and kayaks are required to be equipped with safety equipment onboard, and that gear must be operational and up to date. Boating rules established by DLNR and the U.S. Coast Guard also prohibit overloading and boating under the influence.

East and West Hawai'i parks

Tents, canopies, and vehicles on the grass are prohibited within the Wailoa River State Recreation Area, including areas mauka of Kamehameha Avenue to Pauahi St., and the Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area, including the Waialea Bay section.

DLNR will also implement early closures at the following West Hawai'i parks on July 4: Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area (including the Waialea Bay section) and Kekaha Kai State Park, Kaulana-Mahai'ula section and the Maniniowali section (Kua bay) will be closed at 5:30 p.m. instead of the usual 7 p.m. The parks will reopen the next morning at normal park hours.

For more information or to report a violation of these state resource rules, call DLNR-Enforcement at 974-6208 (Hilo), 327-4961 (Kona), 887-6196 (Kamuela) or 327-4961 (Kona). Or call the DLNR's statewide 24-hour enforcement hotline at **643-DLNR**.

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For more information, news media may contact:

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